

JADE IN CHICAGO

Issue 7/Fall '99/\$1.00

Interviews With

FIFTEEN

face to face



IN★TRUTH

the LAWRENCE ARMS





JADED IN CHICAGO

Lucky issue number seven! Alright! I'm Bill, your fearless editor, the one who's running this show. I write everything in here unless someone else is given credit for it, I take most of the photos and I handle all the business stuff. Jon Bertoletti is Vice President of Jaded In Chicago and he's responsible for the layout/design. This is the second issue that Jon has been a part of and we couldn't be happier with his performance. His work ethic and desire to achieve success is truly unparalleled. Ha. Just joshing with you Jon. Jon Bertoletti also happens to hold the title of Chicago's #1 scenester. When he's not working the merch table for The Wayouts he's helping promote shows at the Fireside Bowl. He also wears a leather jacket, knows all the cool bands and goes to more shows than anyone I know. So yeah, Jon is punker than you are. Ha. There's also some featured writers who are involved in all this; they'll contribute an article or whatever here and there. If you are interested in writing for this zine then please contact us. If we like your idea(s) we'll get you started on something. Don't be afraid to offer us your comments or constructive criticism either, we're always looking to improve.

With that stuff aside I guess it'd be appropriate to discuss other Jaded In Chicago info, since this is the introduction page and all. In previous issues I've touched a little bit on what we're trying to do with JIC, but I don't think I ever really did that great of a job explaining things. We basically just want to produce a quality publication for the Chicago punk scene. Hopefully you'll feel that you put your dollar towards good use after you read our zine. In terms of content, we wish to reflect what's currently happening in the world of punk rock; we don't want to constantly dwell on "the way things were." And our focus will always be music, we're not trying to write some ultra-political fanzine. We believe that by being introduced to the punk rock community you'll at the same time be introduced to a lot of positive ideals and such; there's plenty of great things still going on here. In short we have fun creating our zine and hope you get something out of it as well.

As always, keep an eye out for upcoming issues being sold at shows and record stores in Chicago. Expect a new issue about every three months too. We'll do this zine as long as it doesn't become more trouble than it's worth, and things shouldn't be a problem considering that Jon and I will both be living downtown this year and attending DePaul University. Looking forward to hearing from some of you soon. Have fun and stay safe until the next issue. Play nice in the pit. Ha. See ya man!

Jaded In Chicago - c/o Bill Denker - 4031 Forest Ave. - Western Springs, IL. 60558

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Please get in touch with me if you have any questions concerning ad rates, ad deadlines, distribution of copies, subscriptions or anything else.

Thank you: Fireside Bowl, Mike Park and AMR, Ben Weasel, Brendan Kelly, Steve Dahl, Virgil at Suburban Home Records, Kevin at Vagrant Records, Chuck at Victory Records, Brian at Fat Wreck, Darren at Hopeless/Sub City, Jason at Adeline Records, Daniel at Jump Up, Michelle at Fearless Records, Marc Ruvolo, Jason Sitdown and the Milpool fanzine, Craig Sinister, Alyse at Clubhouse, Shawn Skatter, Josh Strable and Steven Sly, Members Only Distro, our subscribers, Buffy, George Lucas, and the "Big Rock" CDs.

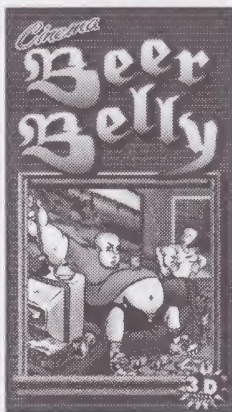
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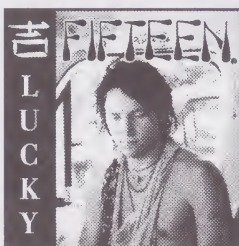
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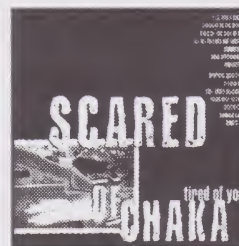
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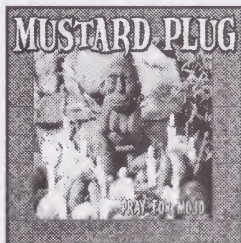


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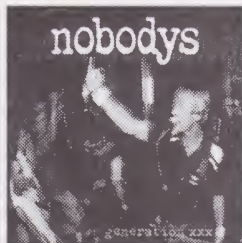


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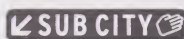


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FIFTEEN.



Sub City's Take Action tour rolled through Chicago in late June of this past summer. Fifteen headlined the star-studded bill which included other great punk bands like Dillinger Four and Scared of Chaka. All the bands played twice that day and this interview was done during the 2pm show. Jeff Ott and I sat outside in the shade and talked about topics ranging from punk rock to social issues. It seems really amazing now that Fifteen is back on the road with a new record considering how like two years ago people all the way out here used to go crazy over supposed reunion shows occurring at Gillman Street. Fifteen is revered by so many, they practically define what a great punk band is all about. Seeing them at the Fireside Bowl was definitely a unique experience and I'm really glad that I was there. If for some reason you missed Fifteen on tour this summer or you simply wish to learn more about them I hope you can be informed by the interview below.

JIC-Tell me about the creation of Sub City Records: like how it came to be and everything, as well as Fifteen's part with all that since your album entitled "Lucky" was the label's first release.

Jeff-Louis was doing very well with Hopeless Records and he was also doing volunteer work for the blind. Louis has lost most of his eyesight, which is why he was doing the volunteer work with them, and I think kind of as a result of doing that he got the idea to start a second label that would kick-down money to similar organizations. When I was trying to put out another record I basically looked to see who had ads in the most things and Hopeless did, so I wrote Louis an e-mail and he basically said that he'd want to do it.

JIC-How has Fifteen's role as a band changed now that you're back with a new line-up and with a new label like Sub City?

Jeff-At a lot of points in time the band has been very about a bunch of things only in terms of me, but now it's not so one-sided like that anymore.

JIC-It must have been difficult to select only one non-profit organization for proceeds of the album to benefit; what made you choose the Redwood Summer Justice Project?

Jeff-I chose it because in my opinion anyway the FBI, and the program of the FBI called COINTELPRO specifically, is one of the major stumbling blocks to people carrying-out movement activities. To me this lawsuit seems like the best chance to nail the FBI for that sort of stuff. If you could get them off people's backs somewhat it'd be a lot easier for activists to do their work. They'd probably be more successful and they'd get assassinated less too. That organization was the obvious choice at the time, but also I'm going to do more records on Sub City so we'll get to everything sooner or later.

JIC-What advice would you give to someone looking to become informed about important social issues who may perhaps be unfamiliar to a lot of significant events occurring in their country?

Jeff-It depends on where you are, every place has it's local thing. The thing would really be to figure out where that "local thing" is, and be willing to work for nothing, and then I guess you're there. You'll find about everything else once you get there.

JIC-Do you feel like Fifteen can make a difference, do you think the band already has?

Jeff-I'd say it has with some things and not with other things. I usually have a pretty hard time determining if I'm being more useful being in a band or if I'm being more useful being an organizer. I basically hope that somehow the band could pay for everything and then I could do both equally instead of more one or more the other.

JIC-I think this way you're reaching definitely a lot of younger kids.

Jeff-That's totally true.

JIC-So maybe it's good to start people at a young age and make them aware.

Jeff-It is, it is. Once they hit 25 if they haven't got it then they're not going to get it. Not to be an age-ist pig about it, but it's kind of how that works it seems. Some people will, but as a general rule or whatever.

JIC-How did this whole Take Action Tour that Fifteen is currently headlining come together?

Jeff-It was all Louis's idea basically.

JIC-I find the issue that you talk about in the song "My Congressman" to be very interesting; it's an issue I don't think is covered nearly as much as it ought to be. Would you like to share any thoughts about the ban on needles or syringes?

Jeff-In 46 states it's illegal to possess a syringe without a prescription from a doctor. In all 46 of those states there's probably hundreds of thousands of drug-using addicts who are going to use a needle whether it's legal or not. By making them illegal to possess and buy it means they're going to use dirty ones or share when they can't get clean needles. Somewhere along the way President Clinton ordered our federal government to conduct a set of surveys to find out if needle exchange actually reduces the rate of transmission of HIV and if it increases drug use. They've conducted seven studies and they've concluded that in every single one it reduces the rate of HIV transmission and that it also didn't increase the amount of drug use in a population. In fact, it decreased drug use because all of a sudden there was a place where people could be reached and given information about treatment. So they came out with all this info and said that they pretty much couldn't fund needle exchanges or even make them legal; basically saying that they understood 11,000 people per year were going to get infected by sharing needles and that 11,000 people are going to die on a yearly basis, and that they're fine with that. Lots of people try to help by operating their own exchanges and using mailorder to obtain needles from states in which they're legal. That enables some people to get needles, but nobody really has the amount they need because the demand is so great.



JIC-That whole situation seems pretty foolish.

Jeff-Yeah, well especially if you look at the cost of what it takes to take care of somebody with AIDS for five years, it's astronomical compared to nine cents per needle.

JIC-Right. I can kind of see where they were coming from when they thought of the law, like if there's no needles no one can do drugs, but it doesn't work like that.

Jeff-Laws don't actually regulate behavior, they just penalize people for the behavior if they happen to be caught later.

JIC-Now that you're a parent some of Fifteen's lyrics discuss things like what it means to be a "real man" or just about spending time with your kids and family; how has your life changed since becoming a father/husband?

Jeff-I work a lot. The biggest thing I noticed that changed is that I used to be really wrapped up in shit like is the band going to succeed or fail, or is this thing going to succeed or fail, etc. In the last year I've realized I can go home and it doesn't matter what happens. It just doesn't fuckin' matter at all. I could totally hang-up the band, hang-up everything I do and just go home and hangout with my family. Not that I wouldn't itch to do the other stuff, but it really would be okay. I wouldn't feel like there was some huge thing missing like I used to.

JIC-What are some of America's biggest problems today as you see it?

Jeff-Classism, racism and sexism.

JIC-Can we expect future touring by Fifteen or future releases or anything like that sometime soon?

Jeff-I'm working on the next record, and if this tour isn't a total economic failure we'll do more tours. If it is a total economic failure I couldn't say for sure what is going to happen; I mean I definitely have to make atleast what I make at home in order to not have to cancel everything or get thrown out of my house.


JIC-Alright Jeff, that's all the questions I had, I thank you very much and nice meeting you.

Jeff-Thanks man.

According to Darren Edwards, who's in charge of promotions and such at Hopeless and Sub City Records, this year's Take Action tour was a "huge" success. The tour made over \$4,000 for charity and averaged crowds of around 300 people per show. The tour was such a success that a Take Action tour 2 is already being planned for next year.




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OBLIVION

Record release show: 8-15-99

Oblivion's "Sweatpants USA" release show was some of the most fun I'd had in a while. That night the Fireside Bowl was nearly packed with people who were helping Oblivion celebrate the delivery of their highly-anticipated new album. Everybody who's anybody was at this show too; all the scenesters and all the guys in Chicago's biggest punk bands came out for a wild night. That created a real festive atmosphere and gave everyone someone to talk with in-between bands. Virgil Dickerson, owner of Suburban Home Records which just released "Sweatpants USA," was also present. It was really fun getting to hangout again with him as well.

I'm going

to go ahead and skip the opening bands and cut right to Oblivion's set, okay?! Ha. The boys climbed onto the stage moments after some patriotic music was cued-up, and the crowd responded with immediate applause. Oblivion picked up their instruments and quickly fell into their first song, and I'm pretty sure that one was "Clark," track one on the new record. From there they did an excellent job of blending most of the new songs with practically all the old favorites, and they didn't stop until nearly an hour and a half had breezed by. "Fear of China," "Do Me" and "Friday Night" were some of the oldies that got everybody moving. Oblivion put on one of the best performances I'd ever seen by them that night; for sure the best they've been in like two years and maybe even the best ever. I love seeing these guys play live, they're just so talented. People always say crap about bands and their "tremendous" live acts, but there's really nothing like an Oblivion show. I can imagine almost anybody enjoying one. Maybe that's just a hometown fan talking, but you out of state kids will soon be able to see for yourselves when Oblivion hits the road in late fall.

New merchandise is now available to accompany "Sweatpants USA," and all that stuff can be obtained at any one of the numerous shows Oblivion has scheduled in the upcoming months. Do yourself a huge favor and check out the new record, and if you haven't stopped by an Oblivion show in a while please do, you owe it to yourself.



JADED IN CHICAGO



Cafe Jinx

Cafe Jinx opened up about two and a half years ago and have since been providing all the hipsters with a great place to eat and relax. Located at 1928 W. Division, Jinx is perfectly situated to grab some food after a show at either the Fireside Bowl or Double Door. Jinx was founded by Jason and Michelle of Rocco Records fame, and their fondness of punk music can still be seen at Jinx if you take a look at the jukebox stocked with punk rock records. Some of my favorites off the menu include the toasted cheese, fluffer-nutter sandwich and bagel sammy. The toasted cheese is a wonderfully thick and chewy sandwich that's sure to satisfy any grilled cheese connoisseur. Their soda comes in old school bottles and they've got lots of ice cream too. Everything is moderately priced and they're even open late. Stop by between 7am and midnight mon-thurs, or from 7am to 1am on Friday's. On weekends they're around

from 11am till 1am. When asked "Why should the kids go to Jinx?" an employee named Albert responded "Because all their cool friends hangout here." Perhaps that reply is reason enough for you to check it out, but if not please just trust me on this one, cuz I think you'll really enjoy Cafe Jinx.

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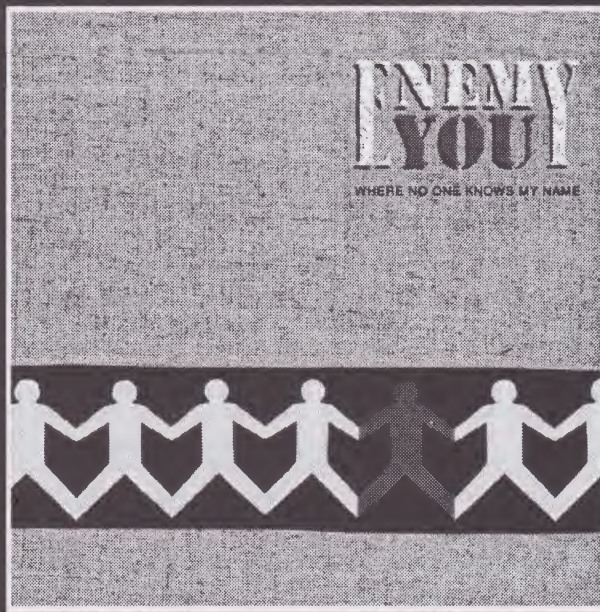
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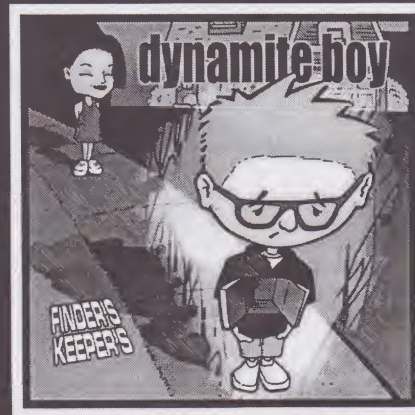
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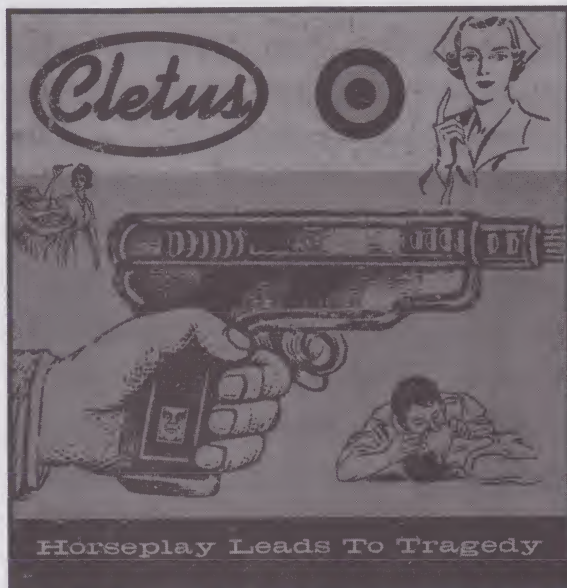
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Music Reviews

Alkaline Trio/I Lied My Face Off EP/Asian Man Records

Talk about a band improving with every release, these guys are really impressive. The songs here are longer, more intricate and just plain better than the ones on their "Goddamnit" LP. Alkaline Trio is now in my opinion Chicago's best punk band. Believe all the hype, because for once the band deserves it.

At The Drive In/Vaya EP/Fearless Records

Lots of people seem to like this band, but I don't. These guys are good musicians and all, and I've heard they have an "amazing" live act, but these songs do little more than hurt my ears and scare me.

Atom and His Package/Making Love/No Idea Records

Atom and His Package is somewhat to the punk rock world what Weird Al is to mainstream music. This CD complies Atom's old 7" records, comps. and other stuff. If you're a big fan or you're in the mood to laugh along with Atom and his tremendous sequencer then I'd recommend this. If not I'd vote that you try his self-titled album.

BigWig/Stay Asleep.../Kung Fu Records

This album is so good that I think I can officially name BigWig as my favorite band. Everything's perfect about this release; the artwork, recording quality and song-writing simply put a smile on my face. They re-did a few old songs on this CD that used to only be available on out of print seven inches or comps., which was a good idea because those ones are sure to seem new to most of the listeners. Some of those songs like "Flavor Ice," "Jerk" and "1-800-Whipped" are so good they really needed to be included on the album anyway. New songs like "Boardumb," "Still" and "Sellout" are undoubtedly BigWig's best work to date too. I really can't explain how great this record is, so just please go out and buy it.

The Chinkees/Peace Through Music/Asian Man Records

The Chinkees are back with a new line-up and fifteen new songs. The music is definitely ska/punk and occasionally it leans more towards the punk side of things. The lyrics cover varied areas including racism, war and family. Fans of their previous record will most definitely like this one too.

Cletus/Horseplay Leads To Tragedy/Johanns Face Records

I was really surprised at this CD after my first listening because I wasn't expecting it to be so damn good! I'm really not just saying that, this is one of the best albums I've heard all year. Not to take away from their last album, but this one is like 100 times better. Cletus is one of the few unique pop punk bands around today; they're so catchy, so snotty, so refreshing compared to all the crappy music out there. 11 songs total and I totally enjoy 10 of them. I can't wait to interview this band the next time they come through Chicago. You really should check this out.

88 Fingers Louie & Kid Dynamite Split EP/Sub City Records

Four out of the six songs on this are great; two good ones from each band. The artwork is really cool too, there's a whole "Night of the Living Dead" theme going on. This is 88FL's last recording with singer Denis, which alone makes this record a necessity for fans of 88. Their song "Reparation" on this might be my favorite 88FL song of all time too. I could go on and on about 88, but Kid Dynamite is really good too. They play some kickin' tough melodic hardcore and I'd love to see them play sometime soon. This record is probably the best split of '99.

Falling Sickness & Dysentery Split EP/Sub City Records

Reviewing CDs I don't like is difficult. I don't want to talk shit all over the place about something, but at the same time I want to try and let you know what really is good and what really isn't. Let me get to the point with this one and say that this isn't good. Falling Sickness is much more obnoxious now that they think they're all hardcore and Dysentery is a forgettable and unimaginative punk band from Japan. I don't recommend you buy this.

Four Letter Word/Zero Visibility/BYO Records

FLW is a melodic punk band from the UK and this is by far their best album. These guys write some good lyrics too. The songs sound really ironed-out and perfected if that makes any sense; sounds like they worked hard on this release. If there weren't a bunch of other bands from California that sounded just like this then these guys would be huge. Don't get me wrong, this isn't a bad CD, just not original enough.

Frontside/Self-Titled/Sinister Label

Fans of local hardcore will surely be pleased by this release. Frontside uses a dual vocal attack and plays hardcore fast and tough. If you can handle it I'd recommend checking it out.

Music Reviews

FYP & Chaniwa Split CD/Suburban Home Records

More split CDs! What fun! Snot-pop kings FYP are back with five songs that are in my opinion somewhat decent. Their newer stuff is definitely superior to all the other stuff they've done. Chaniwa are also one of the better punk bands from Japan that I've heard, and they contribute five pop punk-ish tunes to this ten-song CD. If you're an FYP fan I'd suggest this.

Hot Water Music/Moonpies For Misfits EP/No Idea Records

This is the first release by this band that really caught my attention. I used to think that there was nothing all that extraordinary about Hot Water Music, but this EP managed to remain in my stereo practically all summer long. If you were never into these guys before I strongly recommend trying this album. "Moments Pass" and "Where We Belong" are two excellent songs that can be found here.

Jon Cougar Concentration Camp/Hot Shit/BYO Records

This is all old material and such. Not recommended if you don't already like the band because this stuff is rather raw and trashy. Song titles that made me laugh include "Cold Piss," "Reece's Feces" and "Half Ass Jedi."

Leatherface/Cherry Knowle/BYO Records

"Cherry Knowle" is Leatherface's first album and it's now re-released and available c/o BYO Records. I don't like these songs as much as the ones on their split with Hot Water Music, but I think you should start there if you're looking to give this band a try.

Lonely Kings/What If?/Fearless Records

Parts of this album remind me of FacetoFace's "Don't Turn Away" LP, and that means good stuff, duh. Lonely Kings are imaginative enough to stand above most punk bands and this is for sure a solid debut. I can't stop listening to the song entitled "Runaway To Spain."

The Mopes/Accident Waiting To Happen/Lookout! Records

Masters of pop punk such as Vapid, B-Face, Jughead and Lumley comprise this band's line-up. I think a good way to describe this album would be if you crossed certain elements of Green Day with those of the Riverdales. Maybe that sounds a bit bold, but these guys are the ones who are responsible for writing and performing some of the greatest pop punk ever. They truly made pop punk what it is today. "Tell Me," "Baby Doll" and "My Heart Won't Bleed For You" are some of the better cuts.

Oblivion/Sweatpants USA/Suburban Home Records

Can you say rock? After four years in the making Oblivion's "Sweatpants USA" is finally here. In many ways it sounds both alike and unlike their two previous full lengths, but one fact remains and that is the rock's still present. Oblivion has matured a lot with this release and I think this album is one that finally credits how talented this band really is. All these songs are fun and melodic, but "Clark" has to be my favorite one. Do yourself a big favor and pick up this ten song disc a.s.a.p.

Orangetree/Fixing Stupid/Jump Up! Records

Ex-Mu330 singer Jason Nelson is back with his new band and this is their debut CD. Fans of ska/punk bands like Mustard Plug, LTJ and of course Mu330 will most likely welcome this record. This is one of the better ska albums that I've heard in a while and if you like that sort of stuff then you ought to have no trouble getting into Orangetree.

Small Brown Bike/Our Own Wars/No Idea Records

This band kind of came out of nowhere with this album and really shocked me with the quality of some of their songs. The song "Atlanta" alone nearly makes this record worth buying. Small Brown Bike is often compared to Jawbreaker and Hot Water Music, but I think it's worth your time to find out for yourself what these guys sound like.

V/A "Fun With Dirt"/Bedlam Entertainment

This compilation features upcoming punk, ska and emo bands from around the country. It's only \$6 ppd. and well worth purchasing if you're looking to hear some young, new bands. The standout track here has to belong to Felix Frump from NJ and they're the only band I've heard of on this 17-song record besides The Pocket Knife Gang.

Bedlam Entertainment/2422 S. Ridgeland Ave./Berwyn, IL. 60402

My new pal John volunteered to write this little article and we were more than happy to accept his work. Hopefully he'll be writing more here in the future. When John's not cruising around downtown Naperville he's attending hardcore shows and enjoying married life. John's even got a real grown-up job, but he promises he'll still have time to contribute to the zine. Thanks John for helping out and looking forward to more literary works from you.

1. What's Wrong With This Picture

I am quite dumbfounded at this point. I try to keep up with the changing times in the news and such, but all I am left with is dismay. Sure, it is a cliché to say that there is nothing pleasant, or happy on the news these days, but does that mean it has to become progressively worse. Recently I was watching the news, and on came something about an American woman who is stuck in Antarctica doing some research for the US. Well, she realized that she had a lump on her breast and informed the government, or something to the like, of her predicament.

At the drop of a hat, the armed forces packed up an airplane with food, medical supplies, clothes, and so on. This is all well and good, because I believe that we should look out for one another. Well the plane flew half way across the world and dropped these packages off to this woman in Antarctica. Now wait a god damn minute, you mean to tell me that we as a country are capable of spending (possibly) millions of dollars (food, clothes, wages, etc.) to fly all of this shit to one lady thousands of miles away, but we can't take care of all of the needy individuals right here in our backyard. I understand that this woman might work for the government and she might have some immunity over the average Joe, but what the fuck!?! This, if nothing else, tells you where the priorities of the United States government stack up. We have the ability to relieve starvation to hundreds of thousands, possibly millions of people, yet they decide that one woman is more important than the suffrage in the United States as a whole.

Do you think they even questioned their decision. Hell no. When you have an "endless reservoir" of money, as the US government apparently does, then you can do whatever the hell you want to do with it. Where do you think the money for this "mission" came from. That's right, me, you, and anyone else who has a job and pays taxes. I am so fed up with this 'democracy' bullshit, the US claims that we have. If we had a true democracy, we would have been able to voice, or even vote, our opinions as to what we should do in such circumstances. Yes, we do have the right to voice our opinions, but what good does that do when you have a hand full of people who run this country, and make all of the decisions for us. Yes, we do have the right to vote, but what good does that do. We vote for the person who makes the best promises, or who has the best campaign, or who has the best beliefs, the list goes on and on. But when they take office, it is a whole new ball game. Don't get me wrong, I am not an anarchist, I am a realist. I see things for what they are and what they can potentially be.

2. Is Racism Really That Bad Today?

The situation with the woman in Antarctica, for instance, reminds me of Fifteen's new album. At one point on the album, Jeff Ott, in his usual twang of a voice, proclaims that the war on drugs is racist. Well that ain't the only war that is. The 'war' against homelessness, starvation, and just about any other 'silent' war is racist. How often do you hear in the news that Washington DC (or anywhere else for that matter) dropped a plane full of essential survival goods. Unless I have been living under a rock, it has never happened. Yes, there are always shelters that are willing to help out the needy, but if you have walked by a shelter, been in one, even heard about one, they are racist as well. Now, when I say racist, I don't mean the color of ones skin, I mean the hardships that a person has fallen upon, that another may not have.

I often refer back to a comment made by one of my friends when we were talking about homelessness and the like. It wasn't the most noble comment, but it did make me think with a different frame of mind. He said you can't blame the homeless (not all of them of course) and so on for sounding or acting insane. Think about it, if you had no one to talk to or if everyone you ever came in contact with ignored you, then you might very well start speaking some gibberish too. We as humans have so much to say, so much to do, that we can't (at least not healthily) keep it all bound up inside. Now, if you take this notion and pertain it to yourself, don't you think you would go absolutely insane. I know that I sure as hell would. There are times that I cannot wait to talk to my girlfriend and tell her what is going on in my head, because if I don't, I will just flip out. How does this relate to the Antarctica situation...in every way.

Humans are fucked up, myself included. I don't sit here, speak all this shit and not include myself. I am right there in the trench's with the rest of the human race. But the difference between me and the guy sitting next to me, is that I accept the shit that goes on around me, where he may not. Does that make him a bad person. Yes and no. Yes, because it is shitty to treat anyone like a piece of shit (unless they really deserve it) and he may be one of those person's. And no because maybe he hasn't been exposed to it the way I have, or the way you have.

3. The Point of All This Monotony

What in the hell does this have to do with punk rock? Everything. The thing that attracted me to the 'scene' growing up, was the sense of community (besides the music) between such a diverse group of individuals. No matter what your skin color, your political beliefs, or what have you, we were all there, at the show talking, listening, and dancing. When there was a cause to back, we backed it, when there was a problem in the system, we tried to fix it. As a whole. Now, it seems as though we are segregating ourselves as the government is doing when they decide to give some people food, and some not. Lately (the last few years) there has been an upheaval of different groups in the 'scene.' It seems as though we are all working against one another.

sXers (not all of them) are becoming even more militant that there are instances of extreme violence, emo kids are shunned because they may where a backpack and listen to 'love songs,' and old jaded punk rockers are giving the new generation of punkers the cold shoulder because they haven't been around like their older counterparts. Well, I do fit into the latter of these three categories, but I am trying to move past my prejudices, as I was once young and new to the 'scene.' There is one thing though, and maybe this is because I am now older, but I notice that there are fine lines between the three above, and of course the many other sub genres out there. I used to go to shows, and there were such an eclectic group of people that it made the experience even more interesting.

Now I can predict who I will see at shows, or what 'type' of people will be at shows. I hate this, because I feel as though I am sounding preachy, which is not my intent, merely observations and opinions. I could probably sit here and say, 'can't we all get along?' but of course that would sound cheesy and fall on deaf ears. But what I will say, we all fight for the same things, us 'punkers,' we fight for freedom, we fight for equality, we fight for our own rights, and often times we end up fighting against one another. If we are all fighting for the same thing, why must we regress and fight against ourselves. Now, I am not a 'peace punk,' or a hippie, but I do believe in common thoughts and beliefs, and protecting our own kinds. Recently at an Ensign show, there were some kids dancing, and one guy didn't like the way he was dancing so he took a swing at him. The fight progressed, and stopped the show for a moment. The guy who took the swing started calling the other guy names, and when that wasn't enough, he pushed him and started mocking his shirt. Well, if this guy didn't make himself into a world class asshole, which he probably already was. The guys from Ensign told the guy to leave the establishment because they had seen exactly what had gone on. They even threatened the guy, that if he persisted to be an asshole that they would come down and kick his ass. UNITY. That is what I am finally getting at. Whether it is between some drunk punk and a sXer, or between dropping some food off for one woman or dropping food off to help millions.

This Old Man

JADED IN CHICAGO

Last issue I gave my dad three random punk records to review, kind of as a joke or what have you. This time we got famous talk radio personality Steve Dahl to listen to some of our favorite CDs. Steve lives somewhat near my home and was gracious enough to accept our little proposal to check out some music that we thought he'd find annoying. Tune-in to WCKG, 105.9 FM weekdays from 2 till 7pm to hear the Steve Dahl show. Or if you're from out of state go to www.dahl.com and I believe you can listen from there.

Thanks again Steven.

The Queers/Don't Back Down/Lookout! Records

It's like the Ramones in their Monte Carlo SS ran head on into the Beach Boys in their woody. I like this record, good loud beach music for motorheads.

Slapstick/Self-Titled/Asian Man Records

I'm sure I would like these guys if I saw them live, or if I was allowed to have a beer or two at home.

The recording doesn't seem to capture the energy of their songs.

88 Fingers Louie/Back on the Streets/Hopeless Records

My son told me I would like this band the least, but I like the fact that their music sounds more tradi-

tional in terms of the way it was recorded. It helps me out more into songs I wouldn't normally like.



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IN★TRUTH

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In Truth is a local hardcore band that's really started to become active as of late. They've opened some big shows recently and continue play all over locally. The members vary somewhat greatly in age, yet all have previous band experience. Demo tapes are currently available, but look for more stuff soon since the band's got plans to record and keep busy. This interview was done with singer Chuck before an In Truth show at the Fireside Bowl.

JIC-After having a song on the Victory Records compilation "Only The Strong," and increasing the number of local shows you regularly play and playing bigger shows with bands like Ensign too...how's it all going becoming a more active band and spreading your name around, etc.?

Chuck-It's been going good, we're definitely still developing as a band and ya know, getting people to know who we are. At first a lot of people were taken back because we were immediately on a



Victory comp., but I've been playing in bands and trying so hard for such a long time, probably like over ten years, that it didn't seem that weird to me. But I could see from some people's perspective, like jumping on a Victory comp. and getting some shows, but whatever. We're just trying to be a successful band that represents the scene well, I mean we're very approachable people. We just want bands to prosper and have an awesome scene; like punk kids, ska kids, hardcore kids, metal kids, everybody. We think it's great the way things have developed, that's all I can say for us. I'm really surprised it's taken off the way it has, I mean there's been some rebuttal, but I think that's with anything. We could be perfect in every sense and still someone would find fault and try to rail us for that. But overall it's been going really good, so we're pretty excited.

JIC-I know the band has been recording songs for awhile, but what kinds of plans do you have in terms of releases; is there a chance In Truth will be signed to Victory Records?

Chuck-I don't know, I think right now I like the approach of demos, seven inches and kind of doing it yourself. It's just better for the band to mature that way. If you jump right in, head first, and right away come out with an album and everything else people look at that kind of weird. I look at it kind of weird too; we still need to develop and hopefully mature more as a band, write better songs and keep on

progressing. I don't know label-wise where things will end up. It'd be cool and I'd be humbled if Victory, Revelation, Lookout, whoever would ever sign us. It doesn't matter really, just someone who can put our record out and get it out there to the kids. That's about it, we just have fun doing it. It's not a priority of mine or anything like that, just fun and think that it's cool.

JIC-Describe In Truth's sound or the style of hardcore you play.

Chuck-It's a mix of everything because our drummer and guitarist come from more of a pop punk background, where I'm more of like the old school hardcore, and Joe our bass player is pretty eclectic in everything. Our style kind of weaves everything together. I know we try to write some fast stuff, some mid-tempo stuff, some chuga-chuga stuff; we try to balance it out and keep things interesting. As far as influence-wise we have such a wide range of it, and not to try and sound cliché, but really everyone brings something to the band. It's also because of the generation gap, I'm 31 and Kevin and Joe are like 20. So there's almost a decade of different variety going into what our sound is, so I think it's cool.

JIC-You guys have played several shows with local hardcore favorites Supersleuth, but are there any other local bands you like to play shows with or any upcoming Chicago hardcore acts you think we should know about?

Chuck-I definitely think Frontside is awesome and Evolution are amazing too, I totally like those guys, and I always liked Extinction. We don't really care who we play with, I mean we're playing with Voodoo Glow Skulls and we've played with pop punk and metal bands too. We'll play with anybody, anybody who wants to do something to make this scene grow. That's mainly what we're all about is trying to get more bands and more people excited and keep things growing.

JIC-Name your top three favorite Chicago hardcore bands of all-time.

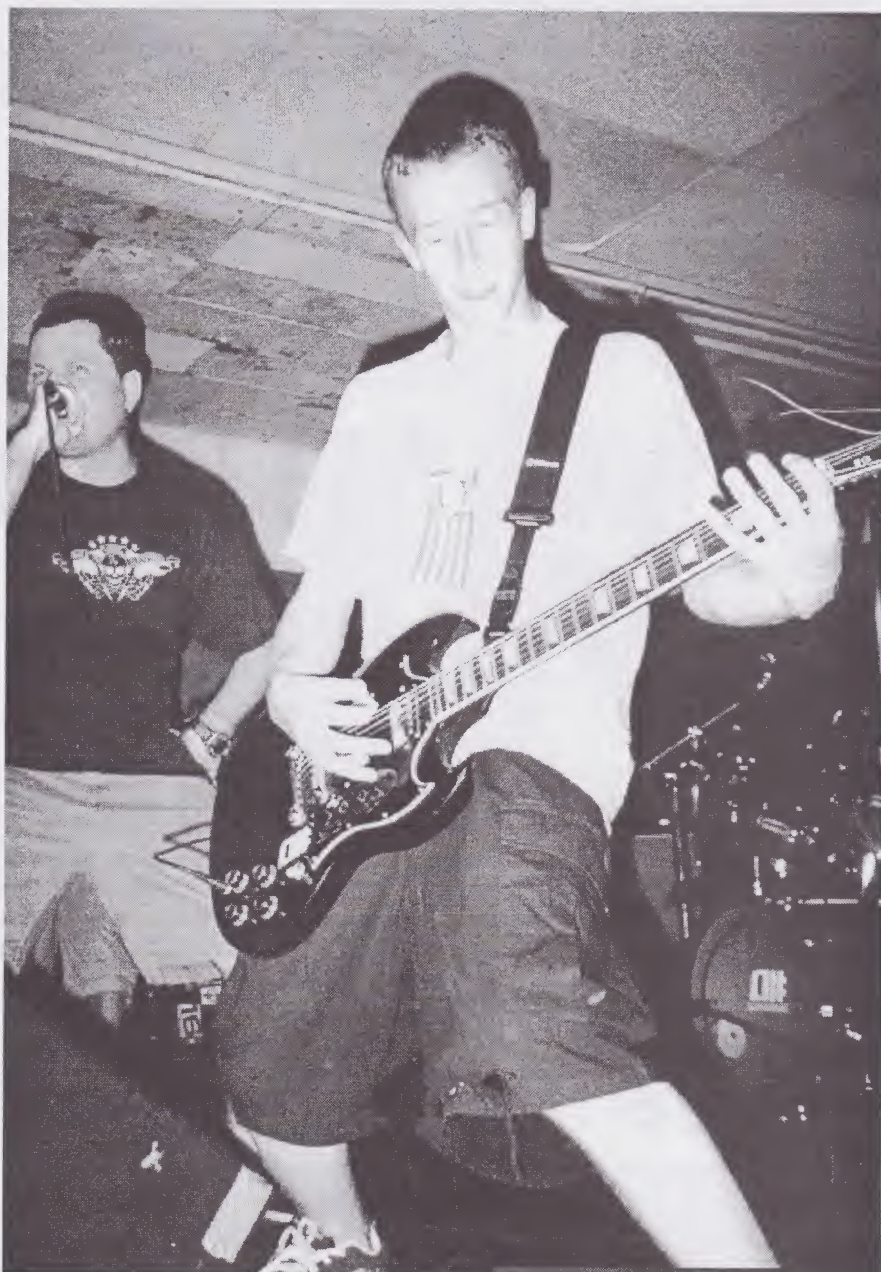
Chuck-Effigies, Naked Raygun and Out Of Order.

JIC-There ya go. Hardcore seemed to get really big in the US not too long ago; has the popularity increase from the past two years or so remained the same, or has the state of hardcore recently declined in your opinion?

Chuck-It always going to be the roller coaster, up and down. It's hard to say, there's such a variety of genres in hardcore that I think really it depends on some of the bigger bands, like if they're putting records out and touring. I think honestly some of the higher-profile bands have shied away from the DIY tours and getting in the van and heading out there. With everyone looking for these big support tours I think the momentum kind of slowed down for a while. But now it's starting to pick back up because I think people realized that you have to get in the van like that and you have to get out to the kids. That's the only way things are going to happen and that's the only way hardcore will continue to grow. It always has it's highs and lows, and same with punk rock, and I don't think that'll ever change.

JIC-Any more In Truth info/news that you'd like to share with the kids?

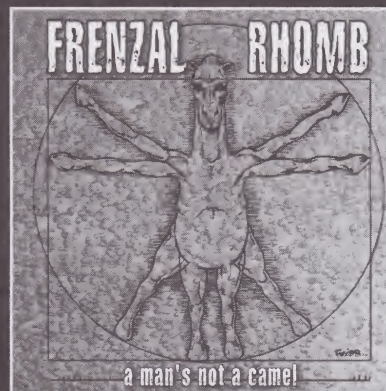
Chuck-We're just going to keep on playing shows and try to do some out of state ones too. Our goal here is to keep playing, developing the band and hopefully let the Chicago scene keep on growing.





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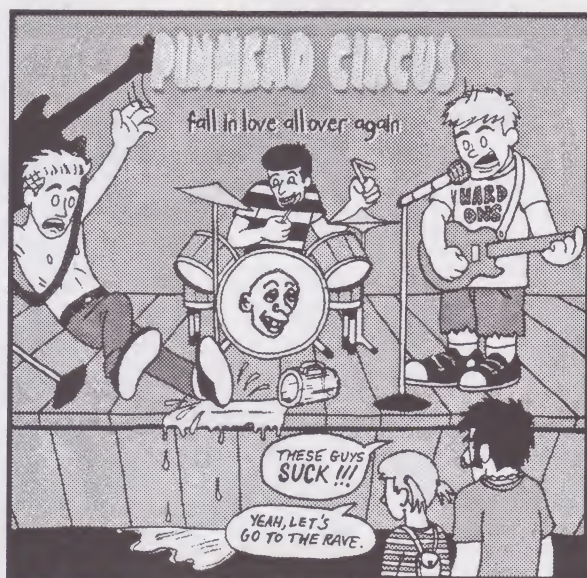
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This past summer I returned home from school to find my favorite tree in the whole world was gone. It was this giant oak tree that stood in the schoolyard about one block from my house and it had to be at least 150 ft. tall, but I guess the park district or someone got rid of it for some reason. (The photo above is what was left of the tree.) Certain childhood memories involving that tree are still totally fresh in my mind; like as kids my friends and I used to throw dirt clods at each other while using the tree for cover, or sometimes we'd go pee and "cross lines" all over the exposed roots that jutted out from the ground. Years later whenever I passed by the tree I'd always recall a whole bunch of happy memories from my youth. So coming back from my first year of college and seeing a part of my life had been chopped-away (so to speak) also somewhat symbolized the maturing process I went through a few months ago. For the first time in my life I began to feel like I wasn't a kid anymore.

I started working soon after I arrived back home, and it didn't take long for me to realize that my new job was quite unlike any of the positions I'd ever held in the past. As an intern at a company downtown I found myself basically spending the entirety of each day trapped inside a cubicle. A lot of responsibility was actually placed upon my shoulders at that time too, and without getting into specific job requirements let's just say oftentimes things got a bit stressful. After a week or so at the office I finally discovered that the summer wasn't going to be all about having fun. I didn't go out every single night like I used to during summers past, which I guess gave me the opportunity to sit at home and think about things more. I spent time thinking about my future and about personal goals, instead of always looking forward to singular events like the release of a movie or an upcoming show or something like that. It's not like I'm all about business now or whatever, or that I don't care about having fun; I think I just have a better grasp on what's really important. And that's definitely a sign of maturing. There's got to be a point in life when you either wise up and decide what matters to you, or you don't and fail to achieve what goals you have set for yourself. You can't be afraid to accept reality and you can't be a kid forever.

People who become ambitious at a young age and people who don't lower themselves for others are the ones who probably end up leading fuller lives. And if you don't respond to the wake up call of becoming an adult while there's still time you're never going to get it until it's too late. Becoming who you want to be, achieving your dreams, etc. isn't easy. I'm not saying that one decision can put you on the right path for life, but there's surely a time when you need to get determined. Recognizing that and moving ahead will no doubt lead you towards where you want to go.

JADED IN CHICAGO



LAWRENCE ARMS

From the ashes of the Broadways and Baxter comes the Lawrence Arms. These Chicago boys can sure play a mean game of punk rock. They'll have an LP available on Asian Man Records this fall and should have a lot of local shows scheduled around that time too. Brendan and I did this interview sometime in July before a show at Off The Alley, and the photos are from a June 25th Fireside Bowl show. Enjoy the interview.

JIC-Tell me about why the Broadways broke-up and how Lawrence Arms was formed.

Brendan-I guess with the Broadways we kind of bickered all the time and there was always lots of tension among us. The bickering never really stopped and then we went on this tour, and we got back and had one show on the south side of Chicago where we were just at each other's throats. After that we just kind of stopped, we never broke-up officially. We all get along just fine now. Then I just started writing all these songs and when I had a bunch together I talked to Neil from Baxter about playing drums. He wanted to do it and Chris was living with me at the time, so we got him to play guitar, and that was everything.

JIC-You've got an LP about to be released on Asian Man Records and I guess some may question Mike Park's methods of continually putting out material by every band you're part of, but could you explain to me your relationship with Mike as well as your thoughts about the Lawrence Arms being on AMR?

Brendan-I've never really given much thought to like why Mike keeps putting stuff out. I know he put out the Broadways just as a favor back to us for the Slapstick record helping to get Asian Man off the ground. I just called him and asked if he wanted to do this record, and Mike's a great friend of mine and I love him to death;



he's just the coolest guy in the world. I've never really thought about it, I think it's just because we're friends. It's like we're a crew.

JIC-What's the band's future look like after the record comes out? How are you guys going to handle things so that you can hopefully stick together for a while?

Brendan-These guys are my two best friends, so no one is going anywhere. That was the only problem I had with any of the other bands I was in, like we couldn't get along or couldn't agree on what kind of music to make. This time I don't foresee any of that happening. We're just going to tour, rock and put out records.

JIC-If I can say that a punk "scene" currently exists in Chicago, can you tell me some of your thoughts concerning the status of the scene here?

Brendan-The Fireside killed the Chicago punk rock scene, it straight-up did. It's like the greatest place in the world, but what it did was it allowed kids who used to put on shows in the suburbs and bust their ass so something cool could go on in their town...and now it's like they don't have to do that anymore. Because the Fireside has shows every night and they can't compete with the Fireside. And they've gotten used to this idea of VFW shows or whatever being lame, and why put out the effort to do a show that's just kind of lame when they could go to some place really cool like the Fireside. But the fact is the Fireside is so played-out now and it's such an image kind of scene that no one knows how to have fun there anymore. It's just more of this place where you go and you act bored, unless Alkaline Trio or Avail is playing, in which case you freak-out; it's just fuckin' ridiculous man. The Fireside is at the same time the best and worst thing that has ever happened to the Chicago punk scene. But I would like to say that we've played a few shows in the suburbs as of late, and all those shows were awesome. It was like the old days almost. And I don't want to say like the old days were better because I think everybody tends to always say that. Someday kids are going to look back at today and say this was the old days and that this was great. It's coming back though; I think the Fireside has gotten to the point where it's so stand-around and so nose in the air-ish that kids have realized they need to have fun shows in their own towns. Shows where they can like dork-out and ride around on their friend's back and just act like an asshole if they want to, and not worry about some scenester fuckin' thinking they're a dork. And I think that's great. Once those two things can coexist, like they did for a while, then we're going to have a scene again.

JIC-Were you talking shit about Alkaline Trio or Avail back there or no?

Brendan-No, not at all, not at all. I've got my issues with Avail, but Alkaline Trio is awesome.

JIC-Do you ever get burnt out on punk rock?

Brendan-I don't really listen to punk rock that much anymore. I do, but nine times out of ten when I'm playing something in my room it's old country music. It's just because I like don't really know any of the new bands coming out that are cool, and the old stuff I've listened to like into the dirt. I still love it, but...I do think that new Common Rider album is maybe the best record that has come out in the nineties.



JADED IN CHICAGO

JIC-Are you aware that the band Showoff has a song about you on their self-titled CD on Maverick Records called the "Anti-Song," with such lyrics like "These guys can't be punk rock. They sing about love and Brendan says they're not." or "They've got egos this big. I bet their mothers got them this gig." or even "Those guys aren't like me. I hate that band cuz they're not p.c. And they won't get too far." So...any comments there?

Brendan-That's really interesting, I had no idea. That's the most hilarious thing I've heard in a long time. That's awesome, that's so cool. I wish Showoff the best of luck.

JIC-That's all you're going to say?

Brendan-Yeah.

JIC-Okay, that sounds good. Just out of curiosity, was that Slapstick reunion/benefit show a success? Did the troubled family get the help they needed?

Brendan-Yes. It was awesome and it was the coolest thing in the world. They didn't even move out of their neighborhood, they moved out of Chicago. I'd like to



thank every kid and give every single kid that was there a big hug. It was the coolest thing the scene has ever done for me for sure. It worked great, unbelievable.

JIC-You're going to be a senior at Northwestern this year, right? Any specific plans after you graduate?

Brendan-Rock. Go on tour and rock 'n roll. That's about it.

JIC-Nothing with your degree or anything...

Brendan-I'm going to be a Bachelor of Science, which means I know how to make movies. Maybe if I could get into making videos for punk rock, like video comps., I could do something like that. I'm not really going to go out to Hollywood and whore myself out, that seems like a really dead-end way to go. I just want to play music.

JIC-I wanted to ask about your friends in the band Tuesday, is it official that they've broken-up?

Brendan-I talked to Danny, and this was a long time ago, so I don't know if he still feels this way. But I remember Danny saying to me one time that Tuesday is never going to break-up, even if it's just him and an acoustic guitar. Matt's married and moving to California, and Rob's getting married really soon. Tyler and Dan are both really busy in other bands too. I don't foresee them doing too much, I wouldn't be looking for them on any shows list. But I don't know, I don't want to speak for any of those guys.

JIC-As far as you're concerned is Chicago the greatest city in the world?

Brendan-It's up there man. I'd never seen a town I liked more than Chicago in my life until I went to Toronto, and I think Toronto is really awesome, but I love Chicago even better. Mostly because everything is cheaper, and yeah...fuck yeah, Chicago is the best city in the world. I don't know what I'm talking about.

JIC-Is there anything else regarding Lawrence Arms that you'd like to say to our readers?

Brendan-Come see our shows, we'll be happy. I don't know if you'll like it, but we'll be happy. Maybe we'll even talk in German accents.

"I wish more bands would at least sound like they believed in what they were singing about... I sure as hell believe these guys do!" - Trydent

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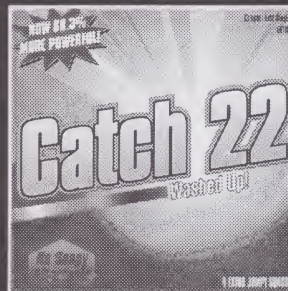


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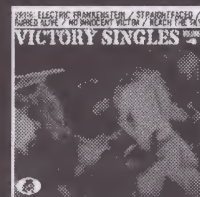
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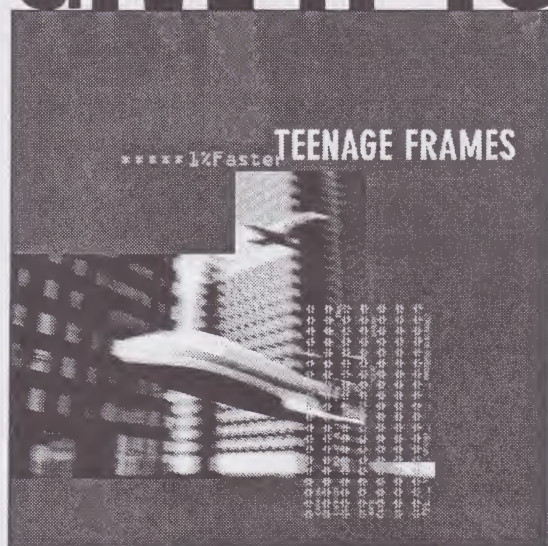
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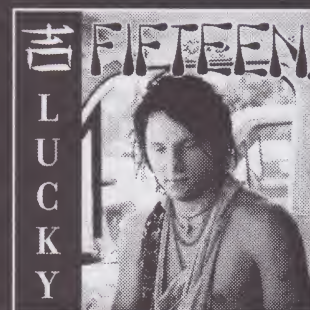
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Book Review

Jon Resh is the creator of a bookzine called Viper Press Presents. This one is his first issue and it's called "Blue Fire Hereafter." The idea behind the book is to "merge the subjectivity and individuality of a novel with the eclecticism, format and visual autonomy of a magazine." Sounds pretty cool, right!?! It is actually, and I really liked the book. First off, it looks great, nice and professional all the way. The cover is glossy and colorful, and the design inside is quite artistic and slick. John was responsible for all the graphics too, so way to go Jon! Ha. Chapters that I particularly enjoyed include: an interview with famous photographer Glen E. Friedman, an interview with Wrigley Field Organist Gary Pressey, a chapter dedicated to the memory of Minutemen founder D. Boon, a chapter about Jon's experiences with fast food restaurant's fries and a piece about jaywalking. There's also little bits on racism, favorite punk records, sleep deprivation, some cartoons and some random artwork. I think by now you can tell that the content in this book is made-up from lots of various smaller works. And that's cool because it makes for a very fun read. It's only about 160 pages total, so it won't take you too long to get through everything. I know the book is available at Reckless Records in Chicago, but if you can't get down there it's of course still available to you through the mail. The cost is \$6ppd. and you should send requests to Jon Resh/Viper Press Presents, PO Box 3394, Chicago, IL 60690. If you'd like to write Jon about whatever you can do so at jonresh@yahoo.com. The book also comes with a free CD of Jon playing some songs on his guitar. (Not the greatest stuff in the world, but at least it's free!) If you're interested in a speedy and enjoyable book, that was self-produced and created with loads of hard work, then I'd recommend you pick this up.



PINHEAD GUNPOWDER

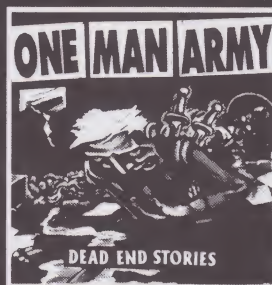
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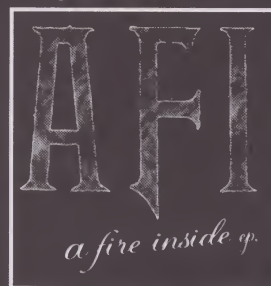
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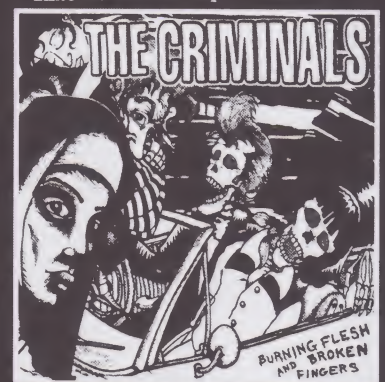
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face to face



Face To Face is one of the best punk rock bands of the last decade. There's no question in my mind about that. When the opportunity arose to take a little road trip and interview them in beautiful Green Bay, Wisconsin I jumped at the chance. Getting to hangout with singer/guitarist Trevor Keith and seeing Face To Face play in a tiny run-down club were both way cool experiences. I'd like to thank Kevin from Vagrant Records for making everything possible.

JIC-What made you decide to take FacetoFace's music in a different direction for the new album entitled "Ignorance is Bliss?"

Trevor-We didn't feel like we could keep writing in the same vein without repeating ourselves again. We're really happy with our back catalog of albums, we're still going to play all that material forever and it's all cool; don't want to give anyone the wrong impression. Creatively we just felt like we needed to stretch it a little bit more and try some stuff we hadn't tried before. We tried seeing how powerful we could keep the music by maybe changing the beats a little, some of them are a bit slower or have a different feel all together. We needed to challenge ourselves is all.

JIC-After not making a studio album for three years it seems natural to me that this record would at the very least be somewhat unique compared to the others, and this one totally is - but how do you think the majority of FacetoFace fans, those who are mainly into the straight-ahead punk rock stuff you guys did more in the past, are going to respond to the new album?

Trevor-I can't really say how I think they will respond. I hope that they will respond favorably of course. We've been on tour for about two weeks and the experience I've had so far is a lot of people have been really, really eager to accept it and really positive about a lot of it. I was a little bit weary thinking that they were going to be all "it's not fast enough," or "it's not like your old stuff," but they're not. A lot of people are really into it and think it's cool. We're only doing like three or four new songs a night anyway, we're not cramming too much of it down your throat yet.

JIC-FacetoFace has gone through its fair share of line-ups, and this time around you've got a new drummer. Is this line-up any different or any stronger than ever before?

Trevor-Pete has been in the band for a little over a year now, but this is his first time out on tour. He fits in the group great and we really get along well with Pete, he's awesome. It's cool. I mean he's a great drummer. He brought exactly what we needed to the band to make the album that we made.

JIC-What was it like producing this album yourselves?

Trevor-Well, we've always kind of sat-in and had a lot of control over all of our records, except the "Big Choice" album, so it wasn't so different. We had to produce this record ourselves because we wanted to send a really clear message that the change in sound came from the band and not from some hot shot producer.

JIC-Can you tell me your thoughts behind the title "Ignorance is Bliss?"

Trevor-I think the best explanation is the one that Scott has been giving in interviews, although it can mean many things...When we wrote the record we made ourselves ignorant of the current trends or styles in both mainstream and underground music. We tried to rely on our own instincts and tastes; it was a very happy place for all of us because we weren't trying to live-up to other expectations.

JIC-Why'd you guys decide to go out and do this intimate club tour that you're calling "Econolive2?"





Trevor-The last few tours we've done have been pretty big ones and we're planning on doing some larger tours later for this record. I thought it would be really cool for the band and for the audience if we did a preliminary tour that was up-close and personal with everybody. I don't know how many more of those we're going to get to over the course of this record, but we have the time and I think it's a great way to introduce the new music to people that really should be hearing it first.

JIC-FacetoFace has been around for nine years now, sold over half a million albums worldwide and has toured throughout many countries; is there a single favorite memory from your experience in the band?

Trevor-There's been a lot of really good memories, it's hard to single any one out. That's a very difficult question to answer. There's very gratifying moments on stage, like sometimes when you're playing in front of 20,000 people and they're all doing the shit that you ask them to do. Or even in front of 20 people and it's really awesome. I know I really liked the first time I heard a song of ours on the radio.

JIC-In the past year or so you've released a live album and a live video, how'd both of those projects turn out in your opinion?

Trevor-I think they came out really good, the live record far exceeded my expectations. The video was just edited out of all the home movie footage we'd been filming over the past eight years or so. I sat through every minute of the editing process with that. Overall I think they both came out awesome and am really happy with them.

JIC-The song "Blind" off the self-titled album has a lot of personal meaning for me, could you share some of what's behind those lyrics for you?

Trevor-It's kind of about everybody wanting to feel like they can close their eyes and pretend like their problems aren't there; like ignoring something and just wishing that it would all go away. But sooner or later you realize that you can't ignore it forever, so it's kind of about struggling with that.

JIC-At what point in your life did you realize that you wanted to become a musician?

Trevor-I was probably about eight or nine years old when I started playing piano. My dad was and still is a musician and there was always that guitar that smelled like a smoky nightclub sitting in the living room on Saturday morning. It seemed like a natural thing because I always grew up around it.



JIC-I've heard rumors that the band doesn't have too great of relations with either of the independent labels you guys were once on, (those being Fat Wreck Chords and Dr. Strange Records), is there any truth to that?

Trevor-No, that's not true. We still get along great with Fat Wreck Chords, Fat Mike is awesome. I'm really happy that "Don't Turn Away" is on Fat, I think it's been good both for us and for them. Erin, his wife, is really cool too; everyone over there is great. I don't really consider us a like "Fat band," although some people do, but that's cool. I'm really glad to have ever hooked-up with Fat Mike. Him and NOFX have helped our band out immensely at a time when it really counted. The Dr. Strange thing had to do with Matt, who hasn't been in the band for four or five years now, so that's all ancient history.

JIC-What was it like for FacetoFace when the "Disconnected" single got really big?

Trevor-It was really weird, it was hard for any of us to believe that it was big and accept it. The truth of the matter was that we really didn't do anything, or make anything; it was only being played in LA. We didn't sell any buttload of records either, it was all kind of a mirage. The experience has forced us to learn what is and isn't real, and what actually defines success in this business. We're happy making records the way we want to make them. We're happy that people show up to our shows, and that we go on a tour and that we even sell records at all is definitely a success. Gold records or radio or not, we're just happy to be doing this and we'll do it for as long as we can. I wouldn't turn down a gold record or I wouldn't turn down radio, but by the same token we don't base our whole existence around trying to have a hit song.

JIC-Describe what FacetoFace is looking forward to in the new millennium.

Trevor-Just the same things we've always looked forward to. Making music that we enjoy to make, recording albums and going out on tour. That's all we ever wanted out of being in a band, and ya know keep us out of working day jobs too.

That's all for this issue kids! Hopefully you liked what you read and such. I'd like to thank Trevor from FacetoFace for the interview, and thank you for picking up issue number seven. Please send us an e-mail and let us know some of your thoughts concerning our zine; I really can't express how important it is that we hear from you. See you at the shows and viva Chicago!

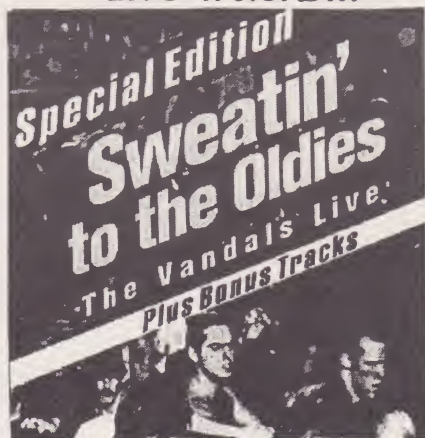


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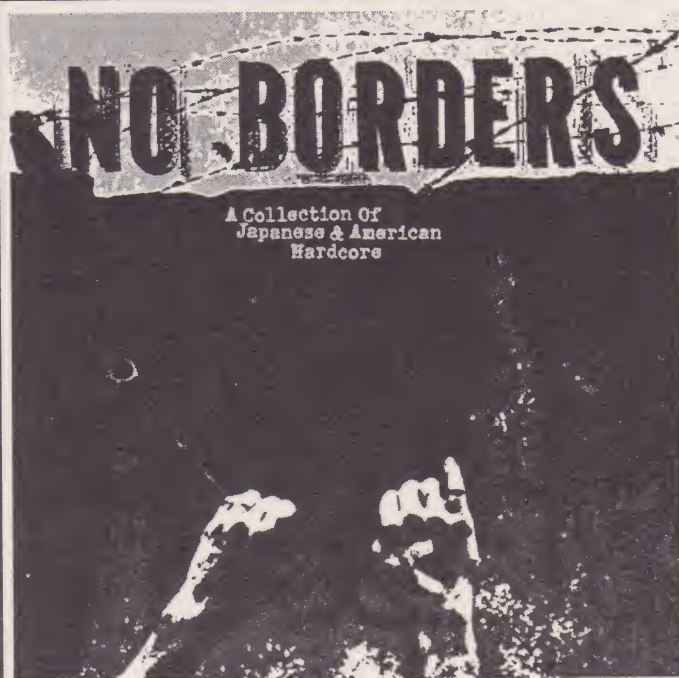
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